

Message Text

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63

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 MCT-01

AID-05 /063 W

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R 091430Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2737

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY NASSAU

AMEMBASSY PORT

AMEMBASSY PORT

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINGSTON 4411

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, JM

SUBJECT: JDF-POLICE TENSIONS DEEPEN

REFERENCE: KINGSTON 4407

1. THE FRICTION BETWEEN THE JAMAICA DEFENSE FORCE (JDF) AND THE POLICE APPEARS TO BE EVEN MORE INTENSE THAN EARLY REPORTS HAD SUGGESTED (SEE REFTEL). WE NOW LEARN THAT ON THURSDAY NIGHT LAST (OCTOBER 7) A GROUP OF SOLDIERS FROM THE JDF ENTERED A POLICE STATION AND RAKED IT AND THE ADJOINING BARRACKS WITH GUNFIRE; REPORTEDLY, NO ONE WAS INJURED. FOR A TIME MEMBERS OF THE SPECIAL CONSTABULARY FORCE REFUSED TO TAKE UP THEIR DUTIES IN PROTEST AGAINST THE SHOOTING OF POLICE IN THE MOBILE RESERVE WHO HAD BEEN ACCOSTED BY SOLDIERS.

2. THE HEADS OF THE POLICE AND THE JDF -- COMMISSIONER BASIL ROBINSON AND BRIGADIER RUDOLPH GREEN -- MET YESTERDAY WITH NATIONAL SECURITY MINISTER KEBLE MUNN IN AN EFFORT TO HEAD OFF WHAT THE
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JAMAICA DAILY NEWS DESCRIBES IN AN OCTOBER 9 FRONT-PAGE

SUB-HEADLINE AS: "BREWING POLICE-ARMY 'WAR'". WHAT THEY DECIDED
IS AS YET UNKNOWN BUT AS OF THE EVENING OF OCTOBER 8, THE
JAMAICA BROADCASTING COMPANY (JBC) STATED ON ITS NEWS
BROADCAST THAT THE JOINT JDF-POLICE PATROLS HAD BEEN
SUSPENDED FOR THE TIME BEING; SINCE A PRESS STATEMENT
FROM THE SECURITY FORCES INFORMATION CENTRE APPEARING
ON THE MORNING OF OCTOBER 9 SAID THAT JOINT PATROLS
ARE CONTINUING IN CERTAIN AREAS OF THE COUNTRY, IT IS
POSSIBLE THAT KINGSTON IS THE AREA MOST SERIOUSLY AFFECTED
BY THE CURRENT RIFT. HOWEVER, SINCE KINGSTON OFFERS
BY FAR THE GREATEST POTENTIAL FOR SECURITY PROBLEMS, THE
PRESENT JDF-POLICE CONFRONTATION IS PARTICULARLY TROUBLING.
DORRANCE

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